

# The CROSS Currents

## Worship

Cross Lutheran worships every Sunday morning at 9:30 am. Worship is also live-streamed via our facebook page and on our YouTube channel. Please join us.

## Faith Formation

Adult education and Sunday School is ongoing. There's something for everyone.

## Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral care concern or request, please email Pastor Scott at: [pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org) or phone direct 612 859 1134

## Church Calendar

If you have additions, changes, and/or questions about the church calendar, please contact Katie Tomek, administrative assistant at 651-777-1329 or email [office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org)



Friends in Christ, in the season of Lent, we join the whole church in remembering Jesus' passover from life to death to eternal life.

Traditionally, this is a time for self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. At Cross, our shared Lenten experience is centered around rich and reflective worship on Sunday mornings; the togetherness of Wednesday evening soup suppers and the tranquil beauty of Holden Evening Prayer; and, this year, a time to gather during Sunday adult education time to ponder and wonder together how God is gifting us as a people of faith and calling us to join in the redeeming and loving work of the Spirit in our midst, in our neighborhood, and our world (see Faith Formation update for more information).

I am particularly looking forward this Lent to the return of our Cross Choir led by our new director of music Kenneth Kusiak and to the musical and leadership gifts Ken will bring to our worship life.





## We Pray For:

.....  
This week we pray for: Debbie, Alicia, Greg, Richard, Marya, Marilee, LuAnn, Sherry, Mary, Ruthann, Dawn, Sharon, BettyLu, David, Ray and Clara, Brady, Andrew, Sheree, Kennedee, Kenny, Judy, Marv, Robin, Hailey, Dottie, Jerrod, and the family of Matt.

We also pray for the Stack family.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the February 12 baptism of Summer Sanvik, daughter of Lette and Jacob Sanvik, and granddaughter of Marya and David Pfefferle

If you have a name to add or remove from this prayer list, please contact Pastor Scott or Katie Tomek, Admin. Assistant.

The season of Lent has always been an opportunity for Christians, in gathered community, to confess our need for God's mercy. A time to recognize that we are created to experience joy in communion with God and each other. A time to focus on God's call to love one another and to live in harmony with creation. To remember that our captivity to sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

Lent is also a time for individual reflection... for each of us to ask ourselves how we are responding to God's call to love God and love neighbor.

Historically, for some Christians, it has been a time to *give up* something – a favorite food or drink, a common habit, or something that gives us pleasure – as a way to remember our need for repentance and forgiveness. A time to “suffer” ourselves as a reminder of how Christ suffered for us (as if the things we give up for Lent are actually true suffering)

I would invite you to, instead, *take on* something for Lent – a spiritual practice, a daily or weekly act of neighborly love, daily or weekly giving of one's self, time, and treasure to those who need it the most. Do so not as a way to prove your worth to God or anyone else, but as a way to respond to God's call to love and serve. To remember with your actions and intentions that although the long walk to the cross led to crucifixion and the tomb, but ended with new life for all people and all creation.

Lent is upon us. Let us journey these forty days together, honestly and in the hope that only comes through the risen Christ.

Pax,

Pastor Scott



**Cross Confirmation** has had a busy start to the New Year. We've had two study sessions (one at Cross and one at Our Redeemer where we explored the Lutheran understandings the *Word* and *Bondage of the Will*). Our confirmands also visited Lutheran Social Services headquarters in North Saint Anthony Park to experience the myriad ways LSS serves our world. And we made breakfast and got to know most of the other high school youth we will be joining for the National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. Coming up, more study sessions (*Two Kingdoms* and *Vocation*); a trip to Vertical Endeavors for rock climbing and explorations of how to let go and trust God; and a concert featuring Vocal Essence, one of the premier choral groups in the Twin Cities. Thank you all for your loving support of our confirmands.

**Looking Ahead Into God's Preferred Future.** Once again we start a new year — a time to look back and remember, and a time to look forward and imagine. With so many changes happening both within and outside of the church, it seems like a perfect time to ponder where God might be asking our congregation to go.

Starting Sunday, February 25, the Board of Faith Formation is hosting a series of discerning conversations during the adult education hour. These conversations will focus on seeing where God has been in our past, where God is active in our future, and how God might be calling us forward.



Welcome Kenneth Kusiak,  
our new organist and  
director of music

Kenneth began as interim organist at Cross Lutheran in December 2023, and accepted the role of Director of Music in February 2024.

A native of north-central Wisconsin, Kenneth has resided in Minneapolis since 2015. He is a graduate of St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, with a degree in music, incorporating an emphasis on both instrumental and choral education. He has also been an accompanist since high school, and has been an active accompanist and chamber musician in the Minneapolis area. He is also currently the orchestral keyboardist for the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ken's hobbies include reading, trivia, and the outdoors, especially hiking and camping in autumn.

# STEWARDSHIP

## Current Dedicated Account Balances

Air Conditioning Memorial: \$6,526.00;  
 Capital Improvement Fund: \$26,480.83;  
 Education Memorial: \$1,224.04;  
 Gifts/Memorials (Undesignated): \$7,989.64;  
 Portico Entrance Memorial: \$3,500.00;  
 Sound System Memorial: \$306.00;  
 Fund for Missions \$5,830.74;  
 Cross Lutheran Investment Fund (CLIF): \$102,057.40



At the Annual Meeting we presented and passed a balanced budget for 2024. We still need to use the fund surplus to make up the difference between our income and expenses. This year we will be using a total of \$39,810 and we must keep this in mind when reviewing our monthly financial report. We are down in our monthly income by over \$5,400. About half of this is that our offerings were down from projected and the other half our other income was down. We will work with the other congregations to receive more timely payments. The expenses are all under budget, however we will see a slight increase in the Executive Board numbers in February as all staff will have their back pay caught up and the addition of our new Music Director. For the month we had a net loss of (\$1,891.74). We don't anticipate that this will be the norm for the coming months as some contributions were not received for the final monthly deposit.

Carol Hastings  
 Financial Secretary

## January 31, 2024 Statement of Activities

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Budget vs. YTD Actual
<b>Income</b>						
Weekly Offerings Totals:	8,039.00	10,263.37	8,039.00	10,263.37	123,160.00	(2,224.37)
Holidays/Special Totals:	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	7,200.00	(600.00)
Interest Income Totals:	20.69	12.50	20.69	12.50	150.00	8.19
Other Income Totals:	3,421.25	6,037.89	3,421.25	6,037.89	72,456.00	(2,616.64)
Dedicated Funds Released Totals:	3,317.50	3,317.50	3,317.50	3,317.50	39,810.00	0.00
<b>Income Totals:</b>	<b>14,798.44</b>	<b>20,231.26</b>	<b>14,798.44</b>	<b>20,231.26</b>	<b>242,776.00</b>	<b>(5,432.82)</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
Lay Ministry Totals:	76.30	357.88	76.30	357.88	4,295.00	281.58
Executive Board Totals:	12,183.72	14,061.87	12,183.72	14,061.87	168,742.00	1,878.15
Faith Formation Totals:	0.00	658.48	0.00	658.48	7,900.00	658.48
Stewardship Totals:	0.00	488.37	0.00	488.37	5,860.00	488.37
Church Properties Totals:	4,430.16	4,664.88	4,430.16	4,664.88	55,979.00	234.72
<b>Expense Totals:</b>	<b>16,690.18</b>	<b>20,231.48</b>	<b>16,690.18</b>	<b>20,231.48</b>	<b>242,776.00</b>	<b>3,541.30</b>





As we enter 2024, Cross Lutheran’s partnership with John Glenn continues to be strong. Our January Community market found our participation down from the first few months of the school year, but we did serve 61 households. Our Cross Lutheran volunteers continue to be dedicated each month, even inviting friends and family members to help with our distribution. John Glenn volunteers are always there to help with the registration and distribution even after a long day. We are also grateful to have student volunteers to help families with their shopping and carrying items to their cars. THANK YOU...VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

**On January 24, You Served:**

- Households: 65
- JG students: 81
- Other kids in family: 83
- Seniors: 14
- Total Adults: 155
- New Families 12

**Total persons: 333**

- Volunteer Hours: 99
- Pounds of food 4,478 with 2,855 from fresh and frozen.

The **January Community Market will be on February 21th**, with volunteers to arrive at 1:30pm. There is a great need for paper bags with handles- so please bring some if you can!



**John Glenn School Supply Drive**

Our members continue to donate a different item each month to help keep the Launching Pad well stocked for students. February is Feminine Hygiene Products, March is Personal Cleaning Cloths, April is socks and May is Bar Soap.

THANKS TO ALL! School supplies are always needed at John Glenn Middle School. Your donations can be placed in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**Items Needed:**

The donation items for February is *feminine hygiene products*. Please give to Sylvia, Tammy, Katie, or leave in the church office.

**Ongoing Needs:**

Expo markers and backpacks. Coats when sales are good.

The next BIG John Glenn event is the Math Carnival, Thursday, February 29 from 5:30 -8:00. Come join in the fun!



## Merrick March Food Drive

Merrick's 2024 March Food Drive goal is to raise at least \$30,000. Your donations make a big difference! For each \$100.00 donated, approximately **300 meals** can be provided for hungry families!

**Checks can be made payable to: Cross Lutheran Church**  
Items donated can be placed in the cart in the narthex.  
Go to [www.merrickcs.org](http://www.merrickcs.org) For a list of food items

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



## LENT SEASON

Join us for soup supper and prayer every Wednesday during Lent until March 20th. The schedule is as follows:

- Soup Supper: 5:00pm
- Cleanup: 5:45pm
- Holden Evening Prayer: 6:00pm

Volunteers are still needed to make soups and desserts – we'll need two soups and two desserts each Wednesday. To sign up, please contact Sherry Batterman.





# Happy Birthday

## FEBRUARY

2/3 Chelsey Christ  
2/3 Grace Lund  
2/4 Eric Lund  
2/8 Clara Volkers  
2/10 Amelia Brynildson  
2/12 Marvel Gardner  
2/18 Lisa McKinnon  
2/18 Elise Simmons  
2/19 Cameron Tolly  
2/26 Claire Lund

## MARCH

3/8 Phillis Moser  
3/14 Jacob Moszer  
3/16 Carol Hastings  
3/16 Nick Gudknecht  
3/18 Andrew Gudknecht  
3/19 Harmon Lund  
3/19 Jimmie Gaubert  
3/29 Bob Ruscher  
3/30 Patrick Brynildson  
3/31 Jenna Stepnick

Join us every Sunday at 9:30am for worship  
onsite and online on You Tube or Facebook.

Coffee and Fellowship, 10:30am

Adult education at 11:00am on Sundays in the Community  
Room.

Call the office or visit the online calendar for details.

To schedule or request a pastoral care visit or conversation,  
please call the office (651-777-1329) or email Pastor Scott  
([pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org)) or  
Katie ([office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org)).

In a pastoral care emergency, please call or text  
Pastor Scott directly, 612-859-1134.

Click the link to open the Cross calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/o/r?pli=1>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>18 FEBRUARY</p> <p>7:30am - Cross</p> <p>9:30am - In Person Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Worship Live Stream @</p> <p>10:30am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11am - Adult Education @ Cross</p> <p>1pm - Promesa De Dios</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm - Fleshipots of Egypt @</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott Office Hours --</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>1pm - Volunteers for Community</p> <p>2:30pm - John Glenn Community</p> <p>5pm - Lent Soup Supper</p> <p>6pm - Lenten Evening Prayer</p> <p>7pm - Adventista Dei Séptimo Día</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8am - Katie Tomek Office</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Study with Pastor</p> <p>11:30am - Pastor Scott Office --</p> <p>3pm - Worship at Shores of Lake</p> <p>4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>7pm - Ebenezer Elim</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p> <p>1:30pm - Cross Organ Practice</p> <p>5pm - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p>
<p>25</p> <p>7:30am - Cross</p> <p>9:30am - In Person Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Worship Live Stream @</p> <p>10:30am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11am - Adult Education @ Cross</p> <p>1pm - Promesa De Dios</p> <p>5pm - Ebenezer Elim</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott Office Hours --</p> <p>6pm - Cross PPC Meeting @ Cross</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>5pm - Lent Soup Supper</p> <p>6pm - Lenten Evening Prayer</p> <p>7pm - Adventista Dei Séptimo Día</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8am - Katie Tomek Office</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Study with Pastor</p> <p>11:30am - Pastor Scott Office --</p> <p>3pm - Worship at Shores of Lake</p> <p>4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>March</p> <p>1</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>7pm - Ebenezer Elim</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p> <p>1:30pm - Cross Organ Practice</p> <p>5pm - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p>
<p>3</p> <p>7:30am - Cross</p> <p>9:30am - In Person Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Worship Live Stream @</p> <p>10:30am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11am - Adult Education @ Cross</p> <p>1pm - Promesa De Dios</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott Office Hours --</p> <p>6pm - Cross Lay Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>5pm - Lent Soup Supper</p> <p>6pm - Lenten Evening Prayer</p> <p>7pm - Adventista Dei Séptimo Día</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8am - Katie Tomek Office</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Study with Pastor</p> <p>11:30am - Pastor Scott Office --</p> <p>3pm - Worship at Shores of Lake</p> <p>4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>7pm - Ebenezer Elim</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p> <p>1:30pm - Cross Organ Practice</p> <p>5pm - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p>
<p>10</p> <p>7:30am - Cross</p> <p>9:30am - In Person Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Worship Live Stream @</p> <p>10:30am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11am - Adult Education @ Cross</p> <p>1pm - Promesa De Dios</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott Office Hours --</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>5pm - Lent Soup Supper</p> <p>6pm - Lenten Evening Prayer</p> <p>7pm - Adventista Dei Séptimo Día</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8am - Katie Tomek Office</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Study with Pastor</p> <p>11:30am - Pastor Scott Office --</p> <p>3pm - Worship at Shores of Lake</p> <p>4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>7pm - Ebenezer Elim</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p> <p>1:30pm - Cross Organ Practice</p> <p>5pm - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p>
<p>17</p> <p>7:30am - Cross</p> <p>9:30am - In Person Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Worship Live Stream @</p> <p>10:30am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11am - Adult Education @ Cross</p> <p>1pm - Promesa De Dios</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30pm - Fleshipots of Egypt @</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott Office Hours --</p> <p>6:30pm - Cross Board of</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>5pm - Lent Soup Supper</p> <p>6pm - Lenten Evening Prayer</p> <p>7pm - Adventista Dei Séptimo Día</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8am - Katie Tomek Office</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Study with Pastor</p> <p>11:30am - Pastor Scott Office --</p> <p>3pm - Worship at Shores of Lake</p> <p>4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Scott's Office Hours</p> <p>7pm - Ebenezer Elim</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p> <p>1:30pm - Cross Organ Practice</p> <p>5pm - Adventista del Séptimo Día</p>



# CROSS

Lutheran Church

Pastor: Reverend Scott Simmons  
Admin Assistant: Katie Tomek  
Financial Secretary: Carol Hastings  
Worship Director: Ruthann Ritchie

[pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[carol@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:carol@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[harpist46@hotmail.com](mailto:harpist46@hotmail.com)

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55119  
[www.crosslutheranchurch.org](http://www.crosslutheranchurch.org)